

# Bi-Weekly Review

August 17, 2007

## Pacific Gateway

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT NETWORK

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PACIFIC  GATEWAY



**Date:** August 18, 2007

**To:** Workforce Investment Board  
Key Workforce Investment Stakeholders

**From:** Bryan Rogers, WIB Executive Director

**Subject:** **Workforce Development Update**

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With our new, expanded partnership underway, I thought that it might be helpful to begin a new "tradition" by which we can share with you twice monthly interesting and exciting updates on goings-on in and around the Workforce Development System. We are busy with ongoing transition and implementation tasks, and have hit the ground running for the new Program Year that began July 1. I hope that you find this information helpful; please share feedback on areas or items that might be of further interest. I hope that the Summer finds you well!

- **WIN with WiN!**

The Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network was officially created on July 1 (see the logo on the front cover for proof). After months of work and planning, the cities of Lomita, Long Beach, Signal Hill and Torrance joined together to create the new Workforce Investment Network for our collective businesses and residents. Over the next few weeks, new outreach materials, a consolidated web site, coordinated messages, and service strategies will begin to roll out, communicating the changes and expansion to customers.

- **Harbor WSC Semi-Finals**

The City of Los Angeles notified the City of Long Beach this week that it is a finalist in the RFP process for selecting a replacement Operator of the Harbor WorkSource Center. Representatives of the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network will participate in an oral interview panel on Tuesday, August 21. The permanent Operator will assume operations of the Center on October 1 on behalf of the communities of San Pedro, Wilmington, Harbor City, and the Harbor Gateway area.

- **Prescription for Success**

Fourteen students graduated from the new Pathways to Pharmacy internship program on August 6. The Program brought together the Workforce Investment Network's Youth Opportunity Center, CVS Pharmacies, the medical occupations academy at Long Beach's Jordan High School, and the LB Regional Occupational Program. High school students in the Academy received exposure to careers in pharmacy and the growing retail pharmacy industry, including a visit to CVS' Southern California distribution center. Youth earned valuable work experience, 10 elective credits toward high school graduation, a \$450 stipend and \$100 gift certificate from CVS, and opportunities for subsequent employment with CVS Pharmacy. As of graduation, two youth had been offered part-time paid employment.

While CVS Pharmacy has similar workforce programs for youth in other parts of the U.S., the Pathways to Pharmacy Program is a first-time collaboration for CVS in California. Plans are underway for a second class, adding CVS locations in Torrance and Lomita.

- **Paperwork – Lots of it**

After much analysis and review of case loads, and contact with customers, our One-Stop and MIS staffs transitioned 165 active client records (98 distinct customers) from City of Torrance grants to grant services under the new workforce area database, ensuring continuity of service to customers with ongoing employment and training plans into the 07-08 Program Year.



- **Summer Jobs Campaign**

With a last-minute infusion of funds from the County of Los Angeles, approximately 185 young persons are gaining paid work experience in various public sector and non-profit organizations throughout the Network Cities. One work site of particular interest is the placement of ten youth with the Neighborhood Services Bureau for LB, where young persons are replacing broken sidewalks. An additional 100 young persons are currently participating in internships with local businesses through the Hire-A-Youth Program. An unknown many more are working or volunteering with employers around the region, having attended the May Summer Opportunities Fair, through which some 2,000 young persons participated.

- **Brown-fields Sites to Green-Collar Jobs**

The first class of 19 residents in the Network's new Environmental Remediation training program began their training sessions at the Center for Working Families in Long Beach. Over six weeks, trainees will learn techniques in the remediation of contaminated properties, preparing for employment opportunities in environmental clean-up and soil remediation.

- **Weed and Seed Grant Awarded**

The U.S. Department of Justice announced this week a grant award of up to \$1M over five years to implement a community-based, multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and neighborhood restoration in an

area responsible for 28 percent of violent crime citywide in Long Beach. The *Weed and Seed* Initiative is designed for neighborhoods with persistent high levels of serious violent crime and corresponding social problems, that without proper intervention often lead to increased levels of violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity. “Weed” activities will center on law enforcement and community policing, and “seed” activities will focus on interventions and neighborhood stabilization – with the Workforce Investment Network’s services a key component of the Plan.

- **United Way’s Fight Against Poverty Benefits Our Communities**

Through its recent solicitation to select partners in its investment of more than \$50M to fight poverty in L.A. County, the United Way announced grant awards to 139 non-profit organizations a few weeks back. We are pleased to announce that not only are there a good number of projects in the WIN communities, two of the grant projects will focus on workforce development activities for area residents: Women in Nontraditional Employment Roles (WINTER) and Goodwill. Goodwill partnered with WIN staff in its project to secure funding for a Certified Nursing Assistant Project through which 85 residents of Southern L.A. County will secure employment with growth and stability in the healthcare industry.

- **Federal Rescission of WIA Funds Proposed**

The House Labor-HHS Appropriations Committee adopted a proposed rescission by the U.S. Department of Labor of \$335M in current year WIA Funds to pay for a restoration of funds to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Leaders throughout our System are working to ensure that the rescission can be reversed, as the Senate is not done with its deliberations on Labor-HHS appropriations. We have worked to convey to lawmakers the effect that such a rescission would have on the local WIB. Whereas the cut would remove approximately \$39M from California’s 07-08 WIA Grant, that could translate to anywhere from \$700 - \$900k for the Pacific Gateway WIB. We will keep you posted on new developments.

- **Annual WIB Job Fair**

Our annual Job Fair is scheduled for August 28 at the LB Convention Center. More than 80 employers and resources are already confirmed to attend, with more on the way. Efforts to outreach and prepare residents for employment opportunities at the Fair are ongoing.



## YOUR GATEWAY TO EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Network with local companies recruiting and interviewing for their current positions

Meet with educators and training providers in high demand career fields

**August 28, 2007**  
**9:00 am—1:00 pm**

**Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center**  
**Grand Ballroom**  
**300 E. Ocean Blvd.**  
**Long Beach, CA 90802**

***Partial list of Employers:***

Accurate Metal Fabricators	EXXONMOBIL
Automobile Club of Southern California	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Bally Total Fitness	Hyatt Regency Long Beach
Connect Television	Los Angeles Airport Police
Chevron	Los Angeles Police Department
Downey Savings	The Home Depot Center

***Don't miss this great opportunity!***

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